

RUSSIAN BALL GREAT SOCIAL SUCCESS OF WASHINGTON'S GAY WINTER SEASON

Many Dinners Also Given During the Week, and Numerous Receptions Are Held in Official Circles

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 18.

THE Ball of the thing! That's not what Will Shakespeare said, but Shakespeare didn't know. He had never seen the Russian Ball as Washington saw it last Wednesday night and Thursday morning. Perhaps it was the fact that the Charity Ball last Saturday had been something of a frost, although it probably netted a goodly sum for the Children's Hospital, that made the managers of the Russian Ball redouble their efforts. But whatever the reason, certainly the Russian Ball for the benefit of the American refugees at City Park, held in the lovely new ballroom of the new Wardman Park Inn, was the most brilliant function not only of this, but of several seasons.

I don't know whether you know about that American refugee which is no longer at Petrograd but has been moved to Volodga, where it is more accessible to supplies and can be a little better protected. It was started by Mrs. George Marye when her husband was United States Ambassador to look after a few of the destitute children of the war zone. When the Maryes left Russia the refugee was turned over to Mrs. H. P. Henderson, whose husband is vice-president of the American City Bank, and who, even better than Mrs. Marye, knows how bitter the need is. She tells most touching tales of the little children they are trying to care for. The best that could be done for the children seemed to be to teach them to forget, and to feed and to clothe them and make life not quite all misery and suffering.

Went Through Two Revolutions.
The Meservees themselves stayed in Russia for many months after the first outbreak of the revolution. They were there during the second terrible upheaval a year ago last November, and they lived like rats in a cellar until they could make their escape across Siberia. It is hard when one talks to people like Mrs. Meserve and her lovely, blooming daughter—people accustomed to every luxury—to realize that they are actually refugees from the Russian Terror. A few minutes of talk with them makes more impression than columns and columns of print which present facts and conditions far beyond the imagination.

Many Effective Dresses.
They (the Meservees) were leaving Washington the day after the ball and expected to sail Saturday for France, where Mr. Meserve is to be a sort of fiscal agent for the reconstruction of Europe. Not back to Russia for the present. It doesn't look healthy there for any sane business just yet. It seems rather a pity that they are leaving so beautiful a home up on it street which they had begun to build half a dozen years ago.

Women Buyers Snowed.
But to return to the ball. If there were any disappointed ones, they felt that they did not get their money's worth at the Charity Ball there was no room for any such complaint at the Russian Ball. The tickets at \$10 were sold at the same price, and the Russian Ball supplied a real supper and some perfectly fascinating features besides by perhaps half a dozen of Chalf's best dancers, who came from New York for the occasion.

WOMEN BUYERS SNOWED REAL BUSINESS FOLK
A prominent coat and suit manufacturer was asked recently when the woman buyer first came into prominence. "When factory made suits first came into vogue," was the reply. That was twenty-five years ago. Today, when ready to wear gowns have reached such a high degree of popularity, woman buyers are in the majority. A veteran in the ranks makes this statement and predicts that the time is coming, and at no distant date, when women will be in entire control of the field.

It is not hard to believe that this is true after a visit to the International Buyers Club, in the new Bush Building in West Forty-second street, where buyers from all parts of the world gather. One floor is devoted to the women, where they may enjoy an exclusive club the same as the men, and to-day representatives from every great city in this country, Canada, South America and even far away New Zealand are registered.

It is a cosmopolitan gathering one meets and the goods represented are as varied as the types who select them. Tailored gowns are only one of many specialties popularized by the woman buyer. You will find the products of the mermaid, hardware, machinery, furniture and agricultural implements as well as furs and feathers. But whatever product, whether it is "shoe or scaling wax," the woman buyer invests her purchases with her own personality, so that she is able to "put it over" often times where a man might fail.

An expert in infants' apparel, who started in as a sales girl at \$6 a week in a Western department store and is now at the top of her profession, tells in an interesting way some of the difficulties encountered by the woman buyer. Seated before the audience in the open panelled library of the International Buyers Club, she said:

"I will remember the first time a woman buyer bought our dress in an Arkansas town to New York. It impressed itself on my mind not only because it was an important event but also because she met with cool reception in the metropolis. That was twenty-five years ago. Today the woman buyer is welcomed royally, and I venture to predict the time will soon come when she will entirely control the field.

"The woman buyer has succeeded, though the road has been a hard one. Her path has been strewn with many difficulties, but in most cases she has triumphed. In the past she has been looked upon with suspicion and prejudice, but today she has come from her position of preparation and want of knowledge to a position of knowledge and confidence. She has remedied this condition to a great extent, there are women of long

The arrival of the Vice-President and Mrs. Marshall, who occupied a raised box at the ball to begin, was the signal for the ball to begin. Bugles announced their coming, and the little procession to the box, led by the Vice-President and Mrs. Marshall, with Mrs. Marshall following on the arm of Lieut. Arthur Bradley Campbell (Mrs. James McDonald's son), who was chairman of the floor committee, was quite impressive. Mrs. Marshall wore a gown of silver colored brocade and silver, silver not forming the flowing sleeves, and a narrow pointed train. She wore a huge head of George Bakmeteff.

In the adjoining box George Bakmeteff and Mrs. Bakmeteff entertained the Charge d'Affaires of Great Britain, Mr. and Mrs. Colville Barclay, and Col. and Mrs. Joseph Simon—the former of the French High Commission—a party which certainly would have tended to reassure any one who had his doubts as to the diplomatic status of the ball. The Spanish Ambassador and Mrs. Riano were the guests of the Peter Gerry. Mrs. Brownwell had Capt. Snaggs and Mrs. Sergeant of the British Embassy, and I noticed Robert Speare Hudson also of the embassy and his lovely young wife, who was Hannah Randolph of Philadelphia. Mrs. Wickfield had with her her house guest, Mrs. Gurnee Munn. Mrs. John Wanamaker, Jr., who had been her guest and was at the Charity Ball with her, has gone home.

Three Cabinet Women There.
Mrs. Gregory and Mrs. Glass were guests of Mrs. F. B. Moran. Mrs. Lane I saw, but Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Daniels and Mrs. Houston were not there. The Congressional set was pretty well represented. I noticed among the copyists, guests Judge and Mrs. John Marshall and the Townsends, the McLeans, the Hildens, the Bradys, Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Kew, were out in force.

But the State Department was conspicuously absent. I had heard a rumor early in the afternoon that the officials there had been warned that they had better play safe and keep away. The Frank Lyon Polks and the William Phillips were guests at Senator and Mrs. Saxelby's dinner that night. So were the Ministers of Salvador and Mme. Zaldívar—who were very much at the ball and so were the Simons, who were in Mrs. Bakmeteff's box.

I don't know what engagement the Breckenridge Longs may have had, but they were not in the ballroom. So perhaps the State Department did decide to take a holiday.

Presumably the Breckenridge Longs were at some one of the many, many dinners of Wednesday night. One of the most interesting was one that Mrs. Price Collier gave for her son-in-law and daughter, Lieut. and Mrs. Charles Fellows Gordon. It was by way of a farewell, as they are leaving Washington tomorrow, expecting to sail for England, January 21. Mrs. Collier is going up to New York with them and will go down to Florida.

It was a pleasant "at home," the first one of the Marshalls, after so many months, on Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Marshall had a group of the women of

the Senate receiving with her and talking turns at her tea table—Mrs. Philander Knox, Mrs. Allen Pomerehne, Mrs. James A. Reed, Mrs. Miles Polindexter, Mrs. Wesley Jones and Mrs. C. C. McChord, not of the Senate, but one of Mrs. Marshall's particular cronies. During much of the afternoon the Vice-President was playing host with his wife, and it was one of the first appearances as a member of the Cabinet circle of Mrs. Carter Glass and Miss Augusta Glass.

The Glasses have only just come to town. Secretary Glass has taken a house on New Hampshire avenue, above Dupont Circle, and brought his family on from Lynchburg for the season. Mrs. Glass and the girls have been in Washington so very little that they are not so well known as one might expect from Mr. Glass's years of service in Congress. The other daughter, Miss Mary Archer Glass, made her first appearance as a Cabinet girl at the Charity Ball last Saturday night, as one of a party of young people chaperoned by Mrs. Delos Rodgett, whom Major William E. Fowler had entertained at

dinner and in his box at the ball. Miss Jane Gregory was also in the party. Mrs. Marshall's at home was by no means the only one last Wednesday. Wednesday has always been regarded as "Cabinet day" in Washington, and the women of the Cabinet circle were at home to any one who cared to call on Wednesday. But the war interrupted that, and there has been no concerted move to revive it. But it seems probable that when the Cabinet women are "at home" it will be on Wednesday. Since the armistice Mrs. Charles Clark has resumed her informal at home, and "informal" really means something in her case.

And Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Daniels have generally been at home informally Wednesday afternoons. Mrs. Lansing has been out of town. Mrs. McAdoo had two Wednesdays at home during December. So far as I know none of the others makes any pretense of staying at home. Indeed, I've heard Mrs. Houston speak in feeling rebellion against the custom.

Mrs. Baker is really far from well and might easily spare herself the ordeal. She lives out in Georgetown and seems to have any one who has the trouble to come out to call on her they ought to find her there, so she is at home informally.

Mrs. Glass, the latest addition to the circle, seems to be ready to take up the white woman's burden. She announced that she would not be at home last Wednesday, which was her first in the New Hampshire avenue house, but she expected to be at home Wednesdays thereafter.

The Senators wives are rather coming forward to observe their old time Thursday afternoons. They are doing so, of days, that being for some unknown reason their day at home. It rather looks as if by another season the routine would have once more established itself.

OUR BOYS IN SIBERIA.
VLADIVOSTOK, Siberia, Dec. 18.—Since the establishment only a few weeks ago of the Bureau of Military Relief, under auspices of the Siberian Commission, American Red Cross, inquiries have been pouring in from the United States concerning men with the American Expeditionary Forces. The work of this bureau is similar to that of the Bureau of Communication at Washington, headed by William D. Castle, Jr., who gave up his work as a professor in Harvard University to go into patriotic service. Mr. Castle has been forwarding from Washington many inquiries received by his bureau for men supposedly with the American forces in Siberia.

These inquiries are of all kinds, but each shows the anxiety of some father, mother, sister or sweetheart of an army man from whom nothing has been heard and for whose welfare there is the deepest anxiety. Of course, in virtually all cases the fault, if there be any, for lack of information lies with the men. The army maintains an excellent postal service and men here may easily communicate with their relatives and friends, but sometimes in their strenuous activities they forget to write. Very necessary letters, not realizing the keen anxiety that their families feel.



Mme. Bakmeteff, sponsor of the Russian ball in Washington.

day dinners was Commander Theodore Jewell's debutante dinner, his "eighteenth annual." Each year he gives them, selecting some one particular debutante as his honor guest, and inviting most of the others to meet her. This year Miss Mary Heilen was the guest of honor, a star, and Lieut. and Mrs. Wilkins chaperoned the party, which included about a dozen of this year's debutantes, with Miss Thorne, who was the honor guest last year, and Miss Minna Blair, also of last year's debutantes, with a group of navy bachelors making up the masculine end.

What would probably have been the most official dinner of the week, John Barrett's at the Pan-American Building, in honor of the new Chilean Ambassador and Senora Mathieu, already postponed from January 7 to January 18 because of Col. Roosevelt's death, was again postponed indefinitely this time because Senora Mathieu was suffering from the influenza.

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To meet such cases the Bureau of Military Relief takes each inquiry. Red begins to investigate to locate the man and tell him of the apprehensions at home regarding his welfare. The bureau already has a large amount of work and there is every indication that its work will grow this winter.

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